

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allen M. Krass on 25 August 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 101, line 1 – replaced “a” with - -an undesirable- -

Claim 101, line 3 – deleted, “for”

Claim 110, line 1 – inserted after “for”, - -undesirable- -

Claim 111, line 1 – inserted after “for”, - -undesirable- -

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Beirute et al., U.S. 4,819,726 discloses a similar method of identifying tubing string volume with respect to a pre-positioned restriction and wiper plug.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including the variable flow restricting drift member for identification of a tubing string restriction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Thompson whose telephone number is 571 272-7037. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am - 2:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

29 August 2008

/Kenneth Thompson/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672